

Guided by Coach Ivan Thomas, on March 15, 2008 at the Siegel Center in Richmond, Virginia, the Titans ended Bethel High School's 29-game winning streak, surging to a commanding 70–57 victory and unprecedented 2nd state title.

Led by a trio of sharpshooters, seniors Travis Berry, Anthony Winbush and junior Edward Jenkins—who combined for 59 of the team's 70 points—the Titans started fast and never let up till the final buzzer sounded. The stifling T.C. team defense forced a whopping 20 turnovers, holding the opposition to only a 37 percent shooting percentage and less than 20 points in the first half.

Madam Speaker, T.C. Williams High School has a proud tradition of excellence, both in the classroom and on the athletic fields. I stand today on the floor of the House, to salute the entire T.C. Williams community—students, faculty, parents and fans—on this year's unforgettable championship basketball season. May this victory inspire you to climb to even greater heights in the road ahead.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, A SCOURGE IN THE CARIBBEAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention an article written on domestic violence featured in the New York *CaribNews* for the week ending March 25, 2008 on “Domestic Violence, A Scourge in the Caribbean—Women Suffer at Men's Hands in Almost Every Country.”

Domestic violence is an ill that plagues many communities but is especially prevalent in immigrant communities as highlighted by a recent State Department human rights report. Domestic violence primarily affects women and children and mostly girls. The violence is often at the hands of fathers or male authority figures in the family or community.

Despite tougher laws and penalties, domestic violence continues as a “significant social problem.” Often victims of domestic violence are reluctant to report incidents of abuse due to the stigmatism that it carries and fear of reprisal from their abusers. Even more troubling are the cases that go unreported because the perception that law enforcement officers and magistrates can be bribed to make cases disappear. Clearly there is much work to be done in educating both victims and law enforcement personnel on the serious effects of domestic violence.

Articles such as this are instrumental in raising public awareness of this critical problem; and serves as a reminder that domestic violence is problematic in both immigrant and nonimmigrant communities. As a society, we have a moral obligation to educate and protect our most vulnerable members.

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, A SCOURGE IN CARIBBEAN—WOMEN SUFFER AT MEN'S HANDS IN ALMOST EVERY COUNTRY

(By Tony Best)

It's like a recurring decimal. In almost every country, from Barbados, the Bahamas, St. Vincent and Jamaica to Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize and Haiti

the story was the same: physical abuse of women at the hands of their lovers is rampant throughout the Caribbean.

Admittedly, though, the problem is far more serious in some places than in others. Take the case of Barbados, where the U.S. State Department human rights report described violence and abuse against women as significant social problems.

And they exist despite the presence of tough laws which impose stiff sentences on men, depending on the severity of the charges.

For instance, penalties can range from fines for a first time offenders (unless the injury is serious) up to death penalty for a killing.

In between are prison terms for those who breach court-imposed restraining orders. But apart from physical abuse, there are the sexual offences, including spousal rape, for which the maximum penalty is life behind bars. In 2007, about 63 rape cases, seven assaults with intent to rape and 30 cases of sex with a minor were reported to the police.

But women were not the only victims of violence in the home. Children in Barbados too suffered, complained the State Department. The abuse of women and children by lovers and fathers was a serious issue in Belize. Domestic violence, discrimination against women, sexual abuse of children, trafficking in persons for sexual and labor exploitation, and child labor were also problems, as was the way the report described the situation in Caricom's lone member-state in Central America. The numbers tell much of the story: in the first six months of last year, the Ministry of Health recorded 455 cases of domestic violence, of which 385 involved physical abuse of women and 67 were for sexual abuse.

The picture of violence against women was worst in the Bahamas. For not only did the report term it “serious” and “widespread” but warned it often ended in murder.

Last year, 14 of the 79 homicides in the Bahamas “were related to domestic violence.” To add to the tragedy, Washington cited complaints from women's rights groups that law enforcement authorities were generally reluctant “to intervene in domestic disputes.” However, the State Department softened the blow by insisting that the “police recognized domestic violence as a high priority, provided specialized training for all incoming officers and offered continuing training in domestic violence.” The sketch of Guyana didn't include homicides but at the core was a triple whammy: violence, rape, including spousal rape, and the trafficking of women.

In addition, Guyanese women face the added burden of a perception that some police officers and magistrates could be bribed to make cases of domestic violence go away.

That's not all. Despite the existence of laws designed to deal with the problem, the report charged that the real headache was a failure to implement programs designed to curb domestic violence.

Small wonder, then, that a leading NGO, Help and Shelter, which handled 739 abuse cases of which 538 involved spousal abuse against women in 2007 demanded sensitivity training for magistrates and court staff to improve the handling of domestic violence.

St. Vincent is another country where abuse of women is a hard and continuing fact of life. A human rights organization there charged that in far too many cases domestic violence went unpunished due to the culture in which victims choose not to seek assistance from the police or the prosecution.

As for Jamaica, the situation there too could best be described as dismal, although not as deadly as the Bahamas. Social and cultural traditions perpetuated violence

against women, including spousal abuse the report charged. Violence against women was widespread, but many women were reluctant to acknowledge or report abusive behavior, leading to wide variations in estimates of its extent.

Just as serious and complex was the report on Trinidad and Tobago where abuse of women was a matter of grave concern. Like Jamaica, tough laws and programs to aid battered women are in existence in the twin-island republic but there was a common problem: cops are lax in enforcing the law. If figures compiled by women's groups are accurate between 20 to 25 percent of women in Trinidad and Tobago were victims of abuse.

While no figures existed in Haiti that would give a indication of the depth of problem, what was clear was that it was a nightmare. For instance, a man who kills his wife or her lover found in act of adultery in the home wouldn't be charged under the country's criminal code. But a woman who murders her spouse under similar circumstances would be hauled before the court, the State Department reported.

Although laws against domestic violence were enacted, human rights activists described domestic violence as both “commonplace and underreported,” so much so that Women's Solidarity, a human rights body for women, estimated that eight of every 10 Haitian women were victims of domestic violence.

Meanwhile, the problem of domestic violence has seemingly spread from the West Indies to Caribbean immigrant groups in New York City. Both physical and verbal abuse is said to be high in Brooklyn where Charles Hynes, Brooklyn District Attorney, has an aggressive program to combat spousal abuse. “We see it quite a lot among Caribbean immigrants,” said an official of the DA's office. “But people from the Caribbean aren't alone. Spousal abuse is prevalent in almost every immigrant community, whether they are from Europe, Latin America or the Caribbean.”

NATIONAL INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2342, the National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems Act authored by my friend and fellow co-chair of the House Oceans Caucus, Representative ALLEN.

The Integrated Ocean Observing System has the following goals: To improve the safety and efficiency of marine operations; to more effectively mitigate the effects of natural hazards; to improve predictions of climate change and its effects on coastal populations; to improve national security; to reduce public health risks; to more effectively protect and restore healthy coastal marine ecosystems; and to enable the sustained use of marine resources. This bill will coordinate and manage the existing regional Ocean Observing Systems.

In my district, the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System has proven invaluable in understanding and managing the ocean. The esoteric task of observing surface currents was indispensable in reacting and responding to the *Cosco Busan* oil spill in the

San Francisco bay. The Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System assisted in the spill tracking as well as using HF Radar systems to provide real-time information on ocean currents to the response teams. They also provided information to and continue to collaborate with the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, NOAA HAZMAT, NOAA Sanctuaries, and the Oil Spill Prevention and Response program.

These systems are at the forefront of the science of understanding harmful algal blooms, which affect human health and can cause fish kills. Ocean observing systems aid in the study of waterborne diseases and can provide vital information for navigation of ships and small boats. They also have national security implications. This set of Coordinated Regional Ocean Observing Systems will improve coastal monitoring and assist the Coast Guard in their mission to secure our waters and to provide search and rescue for those endangered at sea.

These Ocean Observing Systems are the foundation we need to apply ecosystem-based management of our oceans. This type of management and even this very system of National Integrated Ocean and Coastal Observing Systems is recommended by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, which we in Congress created. The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, created to continue to advise Congress on the Ocean Commission's suggestions, lists this as one of their chief priorities.

I cannot emphasize enough the need to show our ocean stewardship now, so we can turn the tide on the dire consequences facing our oceans and Great Lakes. The oceans and the Great Lakes belong to all the people of the United States and it is our duty to ensure that we provide the coordination and the funding necessary to protect these precious resources. This is why I support H.R. 2342 which will realign and coordinate the existing Ocean Observing Systems.

Madam Speaker, the effects of climate change on the ocean are just beginning to be understood, while the ocean's impact on the growing coastal population increases daily. We need the Ocean Observing Systems in order to understand and respond to the challenges we are facing. I strongly support H.R. 2342 and urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEE TILLMAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend, Lee Tillman, who passed away on December 15, 2007.

Lee Tillman moved to Boulder City, NV, at the age of 18, in 1931, and worked as a ball mill operator for the Hoover Dam during its construction. Mr. Tillman also worked as a truck driver and an electrician during the construction of the Hoover Dam. He and his late wife, Norma, settled in Boulder City in 1939, where they raised their family and subsequently retired. He was the last known local Hoover Dam construction worker to reside in the area at the time of his death. He was 94 years old.

Lee's friends and family considered him to be a man of integrity, who enjoyed recounting stories about his life and his many experiences that he encountered as a resident of southern Nevada. He was revered as a walking historian because of his ability to recount significant facts and details about the construction of Hoover Dam. He told his accounts as a dam worker for countless documentaries. He enjoyed sharing those experiences with his friends and family alike. I also had the distinct pleasure of serving on the Boulder City Council with Lee's son, Tim, and I greatly appreciated the wealth of knowledge that Lee willingly shared.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Lee Tillman for his integral work on the Hoover Dam, and his years of community service throughout the Boulder City and the southern Nevada community. Mr. Tillman was a historical force throughout the community and he will be profoundly missed.

VICTIM'S RIGHTS AWARDS, LAURIE DISHMAN UNSUNG HERO AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I am honored to announce that my constituent, Laurie Dishman has been selected by the Victim's Rights Caucus to receive the Unsung Hero Award.

Laurie is a remarkable young woman, who found the strength and courage to fight on behalf of others after she was a victim of a violent crime on a cruise ship. Laurie shared her story with me in a letter two years ago.

As a passenger on board a ship operated by Royal Caribbean, Laurie was raped by a crew member. The story of her ordeal on the ship was shocking and the response by the cruise industry was even more appalling.

Laurie was brave enough to report the incident to the crew authorities, even though they treated her poorly and with little sensitivity. She also reported the crime to the FBI. Unfortunately, the U.S. Attorney's office declined the case or prosecution just four days later.

I have since learned that there have been no convictions for rape cases on cruise lines in four decades. This statistic takes on a new meaning through the lens of Laurie's experience.

Laurie has devoted herself to a public awareness campaign to ensure that the cruise industry is held accountable for their lax security onboard cruise ships.

She has done television shows including The Montel Williams Show, the Morning Show, Inside Edition, and numerous others. She also has done radio interviews for the BBC and other international news organizations to send out her message. As the focus of numerous expose pieces about safety concerns on cruise ships, Laurie was profiled for stories in the Los Angeles Times and the San Francisco Chronicle.

She was also brave enough to testify at a Transportation and Infrastructure, Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing on Crimes on Cruise Ships. At the

hearing she spoke of her experience and also ways to improve prevention methods, including: peep holes and security latches on state-room doors; instituting sensitivity training for crew members; and ensuring more CCTV cameras in hallways.

After the hearing, I introduced the Protect Americans from Crimes on Cruise Ships Resolution on September 17, 2007, with Reps. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS and CAROLYN MALONEY. The resolution now has over thirty cosponsors.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee held a follow-up hearing on September 19, 2007. We heard from other victims who were raped or assaulted on cruise ships. Laurie attended the full-day hearing and provided support for the women who testified and their families. Since then she has continued to attend meetings with the cruise industry, provide interviews and insight to our office on the progress, or lack thereof, of the cruise industry safety standards.

On April 8, 2008 Laurie testified in front of the California State Senate regarding a bill to require Ocean Rangers on cruise ships. "These Ocean Rangers will help to make sure that there are trained personnel who can respond to a reported crime, and that there is an advocate for a crime victim who is not employed by the cruise lines."

I am also working on introducing it bicameral, comprehensive cruise safety reform bill that is informed by two years of research and two Congressional hearings, but at its heart, addresses the concerns brought to our office two years ago by Ms. Dishman.

Laurie embodies the spirit of an unsung hero. She does all of this without acclaim, but because she feels compelled. Laurie has helped lead a campaign of awareness about safety concerns on cruise ships. We all know that crimes can only be prevented when we are aware of the chance for them to occur.

Laurie has taken leadership and shown strong determination throughout this terrible personal experience. I have been very proud to be by her side in this effort, to ensure safety on cruise ships by informing the public of their risks.

Because of her visibility and strength, other victims have been able to tell their stories. As a result, we have been able to garner public awareness and support for our efforts towards oversight and better public policy.

I applaud Laurie for her heroic work during these last two years. I nominated her for the Victim's Rights Caucus Unsung Hero Award. It is an honor to recognize her today for her important contributions to ensuring the safety of the over 10 million women and families across the country that cruise each year.

A TRIBUTE TO CANTOR AVIVA ROSENBLUM

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Cantor Aviva Rosenbloom of Temple Israel of Hollywood. Cantor Aviva will be retiring this spring after 32 remarkable years of service to the Temple community. She will be honored at